Amendments to the Specification - pages 4 & 5

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a prior art pull down File menu for MSWord 97®

Fig. 2 is a prior art pull down Print menu for MSWord 97®

Fig. 3 is a prior art pull down Printer Properties menu for MSWord 97®

5   Fig. 4 is a print selection screen of the invention.

Fig. 5 is a print options screen of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment

This invention solves the problems associated with prior art peripheral user

interfaces (UI) by automatically placing a dialog box on the display after the user invokes an

10   operation involving a peripheral device. While the invention may be used with printers, facsimiles,

scanners or multi-function peripheral (MFP) devices, the examples herein will focus on the use of

the invention with a peripheral printing device. The dialog box then presents print options to the

user allowing the user to take advantage of the capabilities of the printer. For example, when the

user clicks, or selects, the application print icon, a simple dialog appears offering choices such as

15   number of copies, two-sided book style, two sided presentation style, staple and advanced features.

The user then clicks one or two buttons to select the options.

The invention differs from the prior art in that prior art drivers, supplied by a

peripheral vendor, *i.e.*, a printer driver, ~~does~~ do not automatically place a dialog box on the screen

when the user clicks on a "Print" icon on the command bar or when the user selects "File" "Print"

20   "OK." The preceding sequence merely prints a job in accordance to the default or last selected

parameters, which may not even be appropriate for the current print job, *i.e.*, duplex on v. off;

staple selected or not. The printing process is changed by the invention in that a software

component supplied by a vendor of the peripheral device, when the device is selected, automatically places a dialog box on the screen, which dialog box offers a set of options for the peripheral device to the user, a peripheral device-specific driver. The software component may take the form of a modified peripheral driver, but may also be a modified Windows™ component,

5   supplied by the vendor of the peripheral device, which functions similarly to a print drive.

Referring now to Figs. 4 and 5, an application window is shown generally at 30. Window 30 includes a print icon 32. A dialog box, or peripheral option display, 34 appears on the user's display immediately after icon 32 is selected and the application passes control of the printing operation to the driver. Dialog box 34 allows selection of user preferences to be made

10   following the selection of a print command. As previously noted, prior art systems do not offer options to the user, and use only default settings when the user clicks the print icon on the task bar, or use the "File" "Print" "OK" sequence. The invention provides a fundamentally different printing process, especially in a Windows™ environment.

Dialog box 34 is a peripheral device-specific UI which is supplied by the print

15   driver, or windows component replacement. Normally, the driver executes the print process using the current default settings, and does not present a dialog box to the user enumerating available choices. Because dialog box 34 is part of the print driver, it may pass instructions to the peripheral in the same way that would be done if the user selected the "File" "Print" "Properties" sequence, and then selected the parameters.

20   Dialog box 34 may be provided by an OEM, or may be customizable from within an existing printer driver, in the form of an add-on software component. For example, an existing print driver may offer a protocol for a user to set-up a predefined print format, *i.e.*,